

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The Office Action of September 20, 2005 has been received and contents carefully reviewed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 7.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 9, and cancel claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-20 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,008) in view of Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,060,130); and rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 and 15-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,038,008 in view of Kim.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 now includes the subject matter of claim 7, which has been allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and claims 2, 4-6 and 8, which depend therefrom, are in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim 9 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 9 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...a hydrophilic buffer layer having a thickness of 10Å to 50Å over said passivation layer, the buffer layer formed by irradiating the organic passivation layer with ultraviolet rays having a wavelength in a range between about 100 nm and about 200 nm..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9, and claims 10-20 which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: December 20, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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